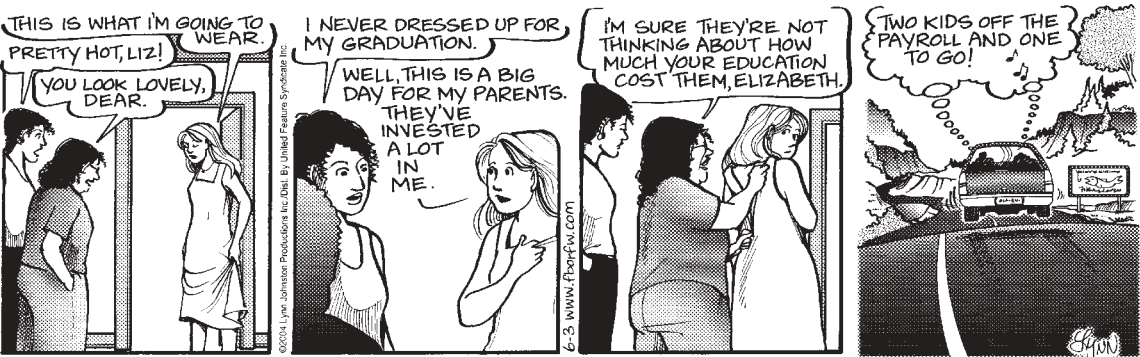
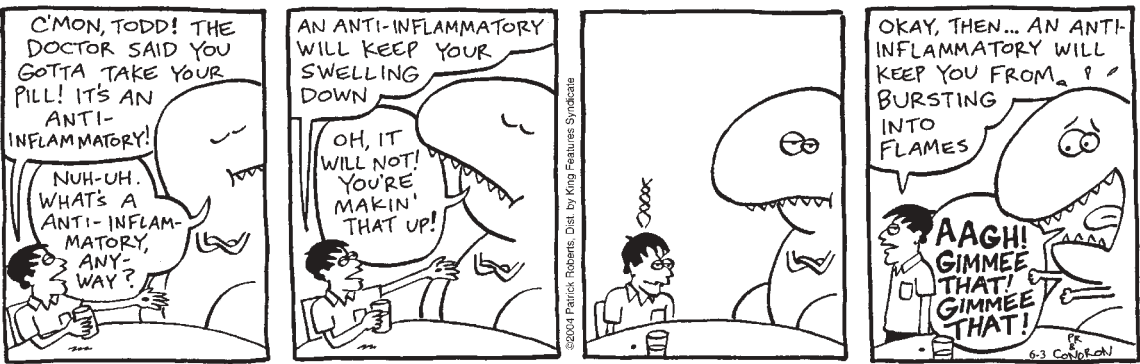


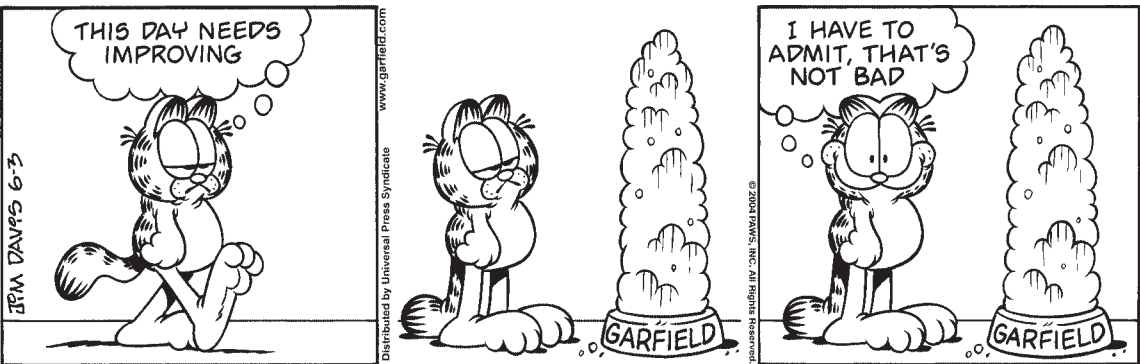
For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



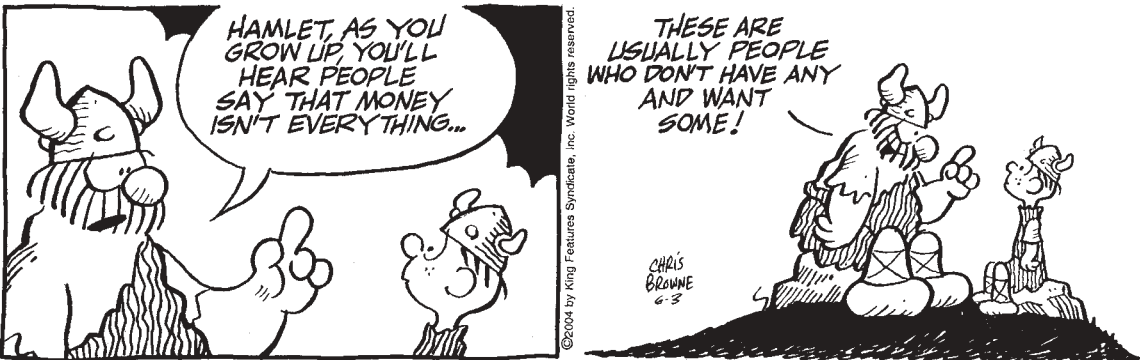
Tod The Dinosaur • PR Condron



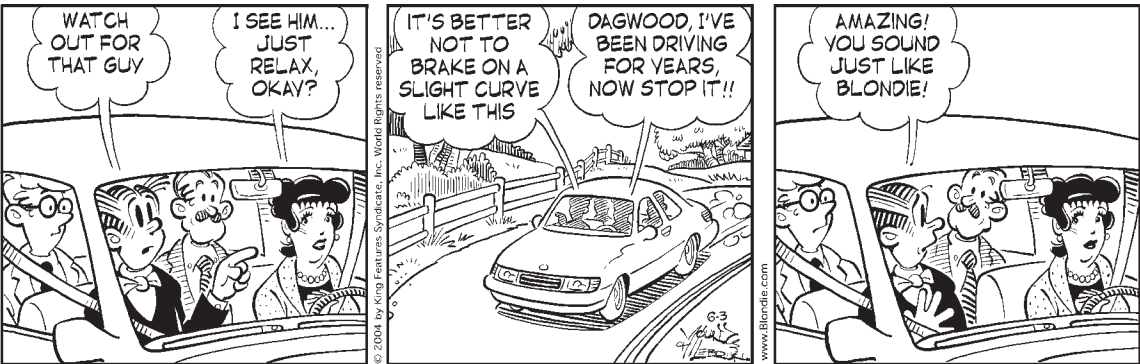
Garfield • Jim Davis



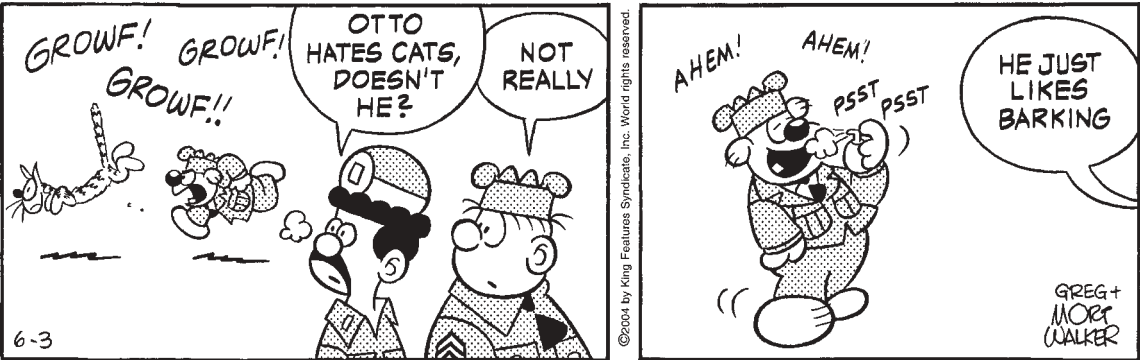
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



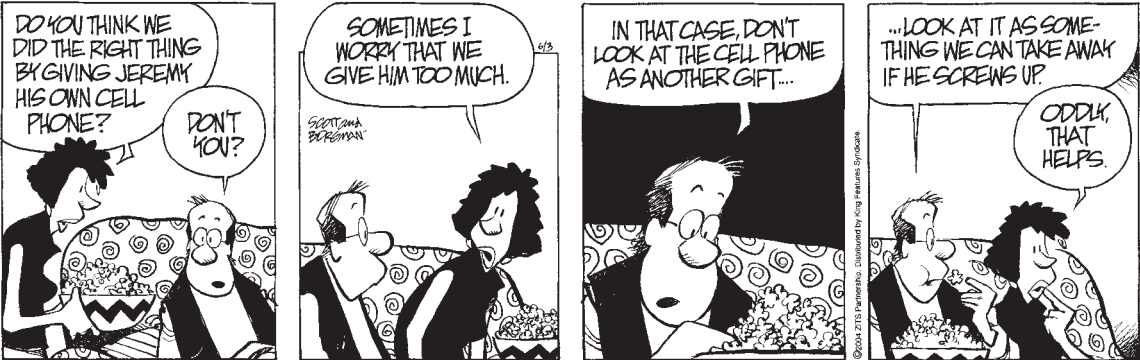
Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Cryptoquip

SK D FSIUP BPKEXNE,
PKX ISWZE BDKRSRFV NDV
EZDE EZX UDT SN DFHDVN
UXSKW FPHXTXR.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS THE TENOR CARRERAS GOT HIS OLD EYEGLASSES ADJUSTED, I SAID "JOSE, CAN YOU SEE?"
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

Penny should be returned to owner

DEAR ABBY: Your "Penny From Heaven" letter about the coin found by the employee of a car re-conditioning business (the penny was given to his boss) missed one important fact. That penny belongs to the owner of the car and should not have been taken without the owner's permission. It is called stealing. Shame on you, Abby.

— HONEST TO A FAULT
DEAR HONEST: Your letter was one of hundreds I've received from sticklers for honesty who also scolded me for not chastising her. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: That penny could well have been "from heaven" for the client who owned that vehicle. It could easily have fallen from the client's pocket or purse and have been presumed lost. That writer should have offered the penny back to the customer. And you, Abby, instead of taking pleasure at the taking of another's property, should have pointed that out.

— C.R. IN WALLER, TEXAS
DEAR C.R.: Thanks for putting your helpful criticism so kindly. One reader from Studio City, Calif., asked me if I had a geranium in my cranium for overlooking the point.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Melanie," and her fiance, "Tom," expect their first child next month. Tom's mother, "Shirley," currently has no home of her own and is living with relatives. Shirley plans to attend Melanie's baby shower three weeks before the baby is due, and remain indefinitely with them in their apartment. The apartment is big enough for Tom, Melanie and the baby, but certainly no more. Tom can't bring himself to say "No" to Shirley, and Melanie is distraught over this. She doesn't like having people around her 24/7, and she's physically sick to her stomach



Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby

about it. Shirley was not invited. She simply informed my daughter when she would arrive and where she would be sleeping.

Should I get involved, or should I let the children work this out themselves? Please advise.

— ANXIOUS MOTHER
DEAR ANXIOUS: I advise you to stay out of the fray. Offer your daughter emotional support, but do not fight this battle for her. As much as you might like to help, it is time for your daughter to strengthen her backbone and learn to assert herself. It would be nice if her fiance had matured enough to tell his mother to back off at some point, but it appears he hasn't.

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law, "Donald," ransacks our desk and bureau drawers and looks at everything when he comes to visit. He doesn't take anything, but he goes through anything that arouses his interest. Donald has a pleasant disposition, but his pawing through our things makes my other daughter furious. Neither of us knows what to do about it because we don't want to alienate my younger daughter.

Anything you suggest will be appreciated. Last week, he opened a small drawer where I keep my checkbook and monthly payment records. It's driving us batty. Help!

— GOING BATTY
DEAR GOING BATTY: Relocate your financial and personal papers to a locked filing cabinet. Put a lock on your bedroom door and use it when Donald is in the house. Actions speak louder than

words.
DEAR ABBY: I have been going out with my boyfriend, "Donny," for some time. We love each other and would do anything for each other. I am 17 and a senior in high school. Donny is turning 19 and is a college freshman back East.

Donny's father is encouraging him to see other girls while he's in college. I am jealous and scared that Donny might cheat on me, because most of the relationships around me have failed because the man cheated on the woman. I am worried that this will happen to me — especially because during Donny's phone call last night, he mentioned that a girl had flirted with him yesterday.

Deep down, I feel it would be easier to split up for the time being. I am torn, because I love Donny and can't stand being without him, but I also don't want to end up getting hurt. What should I do? Should I trust Donny or split up with him?

— TORN IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR TORN: I have a better idea. The next time you and Donny talk, tell him what you have told me. Then offer him the option of both of you dating others and hear what he has to say. Long-distance romances can be difficult, but my mail tells me that some of them work out. So hold a good thought, let Donny be part of the decision-making, and don't let the green-eyed monster wreck your relationship.

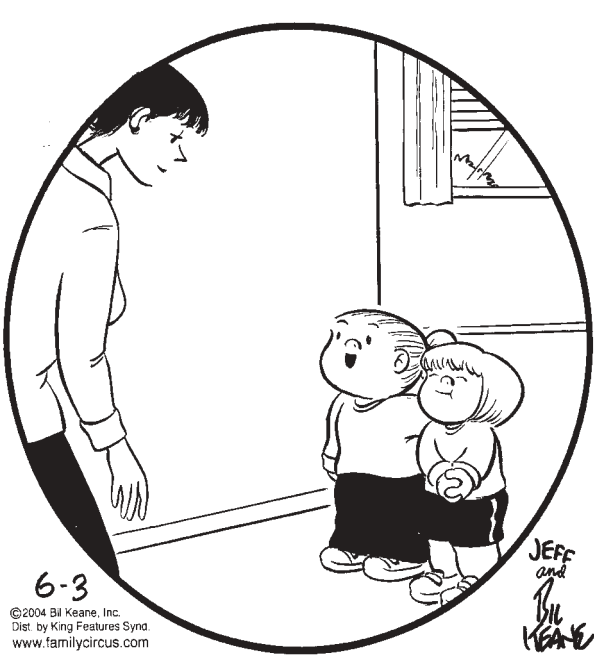
Editor's note: Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

Bridge

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A K 10 6 3
♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ 8 6
♣ 7 4
WEST
♠ Q 4 2
♥ K Q 10 4 2
♦ J 7 4
♣ Q 3
EAST
♠ J 9 8 7 5
♥ A 3
♦ 10 9 5 2
♣ K 5
SOUTH
♠ —
♥ J 7
♦ A K Q 3
♣ A J 10 9 8 6 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass Pass 2 ♣
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♣
Pass 3 ♥ Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — king of hearts.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Emma's new little brother is named after the President. They call him Dubya."

Hot Potato

There is a lot more to some deals than at first meets the eye. Take this case from the 1993 North American Open Pairs.

At one table, three notrump was reached on the bidding shown. West made the normal opening lead of the heart king, and East made the equally normal play of overtaking the king with the ace and returning a heart to unblock the suit.

West took South's jack with the queen, cashed the ten and continued with a fourth heart, establishing his remaining heart.

Declarer won the heart with dummy's nine, cashed the ace of spades, discarding a diamond, and then led a club toward his hand. After East followed low, South put up the ace and played another club, losing to East's king. West's good heart thus withered on the vine, and declarer took the rest of the tricks.

In the post-mortem, East chided himself for failing to put up his king when the first club was led from dummy. He pointed out that after South took the king with the ace, West would next gain the lead with the queen and cash his heart to defeat the contract.

South replied that if East had made this play, he would have allowed the king to hold and then played the ace on the next round. Whether South would actually have made this play will never be known, but since he might have, there is no assurance that the king play would have succeeded.

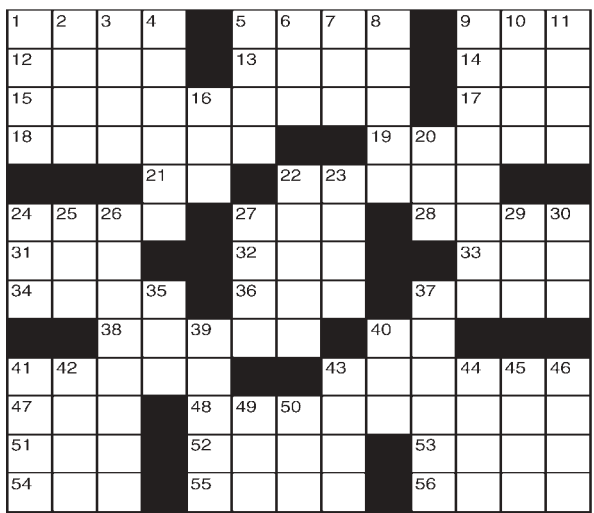
East and South both missed another possibility, however. East had the right idea about sacrificing his king of clubs — but the right time to get rid of it is on the third or fourth round of hearts! Once East jettisons the club king on a heart, declarer is helpless.

The winning play is really not that hard to find. East should reason that if South, who is known to have a long club suit, has the A-Q, his king is dead anyway. It should therefore be disposed of as quickly as possible in the hope that partner has the queen. The play is clearly correct — all you have to do is think of it!

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Jam ingredients?
5 Circumstance partner
9 O'Hare's loc.
12 Slightly
13 Domingo ditty
14 Attila, e.g.
15 Makes an impression
17 Moose's cousin
18 Diner stack
19 Gaudy
21 Med. measure
22 Charlatan
24 Draw with a laser
27 "Town"
28 Go sight-seeing
31 Vast expanse
32 Command to Fido
33 Dream Team letters
34 Quarterback's play
36 Flamenco cheer
37 Check
38 "Monopolly" buy
40 Symbol for gold
41 Khaki material
43 Tap
47 Appomattox VIP
48 Bob Barker's answer cards?
51 Stick figure?
52 Self (Pref.)
53 Pound of poetry
54 Undeniably
55 Verve
56 Palmist, e.g.
Solution time: 25 mins.
LAYS GIL DATA
OLEO EMU EDEN
CULDESAC AMEN
IMPACT IODINE
SHU EVER
AMP ORD INEPT
SARI EDD ORAW
PRIMP TTN SLO
SPEW SAM
MUTATE OSAGES
ISIS NOWAYOUT
MENS CAN OGRE
ISEE HTS ROOM
Yesterday's answer 6-3

DOWN
1 Complain constantly
2 First victim
3 Latvia's capital
4 Sudden pain in the side
5 Margarine servings
6 Raw rock
7 Russian spacecraft
8 High-carb entree
9 Examine
10 Lou Ferrigno role
11 Black
16 Moment
20 Performance
22 Pacify
23 Desire
24 Kreskin's claim
25 Indonesian export
26 Dismisses dishonorably
27 Heinz Holliger's instrument
29 Exploit
30 Aries
35 Trinity member
37 Hotel accommodations
39 November birthstone
40 Mimic
41 Over-satisfy
42 Roll call reply
43 Glaswegian
44 Stare
45 Shrek, for example
46 Despot
49 Sara of "Less Than Perfect"
50 "Impossible"



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